

Mr. Speaker, on this historic occasion, I would like to recognize the California Credit Union League and Arrowhead Credit Union of San Bernardino for the vital role they have played in the national advancement of H.R. 1151. Without their extraordinary grassroots efforts, a swift congressional approval of H.R. 1151 would not have been possible. They have every reason to celebrate this victory, and I praise them for their continued efforts to reach out to the underserved and to expand their contributions to the economy.

As a long-time supporter of credit unions in the United States, I am honored to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 1151 and to have been able to join the credit union community in efforts to enact a bill that will preserve the rights of millions of Americans to join and continue their access to credit unions.

#### THE PASSING OF RABBI LEIBISH (LEOPOLD) LEFKOWITZ

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on first blush, Rabbi Leibish (Leopold) Lefkowitz was a Talmudic scholar bearing in his heart the abundant gifts and miraculous fate of the Jewish people. This singular impression fades rapidly, however, on closer inspection. Who was this rabbi, mayor, community leader, businessman, philanthropist, friend?

It was, of course, Leibish Lefkowitz. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the humble immigrant who came to these shores shortly after the Second World War and settled in New York with his wife, operating a crystal and gift shop on Manhattan's Lower East Side, which soon turned into Crystal Clear Industries Enterprise, one of the largest crystal companies in the United States. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the intrepid educator, who was president of the 18,000 student Satmar educational system, United Talmudical Academy and Beth Rachel, educating children from kindergarten through post-rabbinical seminary. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the proud servant to his community, who was president of Satmar Congregation Yetev Lev of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and founder of the United Jewish Organization of Williamsburg, a community service bureau of the utmost importance and indeed profound effectiveness. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the pioneer and "elected official," who was founder and mayor of the Kiryat Joel Village in Monroe, New York, now with over 15,000 residents. Rabbi Lefkowitz, the generous philanthropist, who helped so many and gave so much, building organizations, homes, even cities. And, of course, Rabbi Lefkowitz the husband, father of two, grandfather of sixteen, and great-grandfather of forty-two.

As is clear, Rabbi Leibish Lefkowitz was a man of parts: many parts. And with his beloved Torah, or Old Testament, as his guide, the Divine as his inspiration, and perfecting the world as his goal, all these unique parts amalgamated into the extraordinary man that Rabbi Lefkowitz was, the true and deserving servant of God that he wished to be.

Since his passing on August 1st, the amount of righteousness in this world has declined, and indeed the world has become a lesser place. The Almighty, in his infinite yet

inexplicable wisdom, has taken Rabbi Lefkowitz to be with Himself, depriving us of this beloved *mensch*, but bestowing upon heaven his blessed soul.

#### AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO IS CRUCIAL

#### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago a letter was sent to President Clinton, signed by 90 members of the House and Senate, urging the President to "undertake all appropriate steps to strengthen U.S.-Moroccan cooperation." I signed this letter because I strongly believe that we should stand by our friends in the world.

Morocco has for years been a loyal American ally in a region fraught with peril. It is a constitutional monarchy with a free and democratically-elected government. Led by King Hassan, Morocco is committed to free trade, privatization and a free-market economy. In the past year, there has been more than a 300-percent increase in direct investment from the United States.

Morocco would like to see our relationship grow—working together in the region and in mutually-beneficial trade development. We all know that the key to the future, especially for America's economic health is to create more markets and greater stability for U.S. companies to expand around the world.

This is why American support for our ally Morocco is just as crucial today as it has been in the past.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ALICE ASHTON

#### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and acknowledge Alice E. Ashton on her 80th birthday for 35 years of unselfish community service. The mother of seven children and a military wife, she nonetheless found the time, energy and commitment to assist others. A resident of Redlands, California, she has touched the lives of numerous individuals, young and old, through her many acts of humanitarian volunteerism.

Alice Ashton's service is very well known. During the early 1960's, Alice volunteered at the Redlands Well-Baby Clinic providing young mothers in dealing with the new responsibilities of parenthood. During that same period, she provided tutoring in the public housing project to elementary and middle school students and was a volunteer reader for young children.

From 1965 to 1975, Alice was a member of the Redlands Human Relations Council, an organization whose goal was to improve the quality of life for the less fortunate. The passage of the California Unfair Housing bill was a result of her tireless efforts. She was also a crisis intervention volunteer during this ten-year period, helping individuals deal with some

of their darkest moments. With limited formal training, she brought a level of compassion and empathy to the job that was extraordinary, but was no accident; she had suffered a grievous personal tragedy of her own. On August 1, 1966, an emotionally distraught young man occupied the clock tower in the Commons of the University of Texas with a high-powered rifle and began firing indiscriminately at the students below. Alice's oldest son was one of the first individuals killed. Characteristically, she dealt with her grief by helping others.

From July, 1977 to June, 1978 Alice served as a member of the San Bernardino County Grand Jury. In the early 1980's, responding to a desire to improve her own education, Alice enrolled in various courses at Crafton Community College. Despite a challenging academic schedule, she found time between classes to do volunteer work with Family Services in the community of Yucaipa, California. She was also a peer counselor with Ombudsman for the Aged during this period.

The 1990's saw her focus return to children's issues as she became an active volunteer in the Child Advocacy Division in the Department of Public Social Services for San Bernardino County. She was also very involved as a volunteer at the County Juvenile Detention Facility. She currently runs the canteen at that facility, the proceeds of which are used to improve living conditions and provide recreational items for the young inmates.

Alice is also an active advocate for participation in the political process, both locally and nationally. She works tirelessly in getting out the vote and has served as an official delegate for her party on two occasions. Her contributions over the years can be summed up in one word: citizen. She embodies everything that word connotes, being involved and doing whatever she can to make her community a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the valuable and selfless contributions of Alice Ashton. Her lifetime commitment to assisting others is certainly worthy of our respect and it is only fitting that the House recognize her today.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my friends and neighbors in Smithtown, Long Island as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Smithtown Volunteer Fire Department.

Since 1908, the residents of Smithtown have entrusted their most precious possessions—their families—to the men and women of this historic fire department. That trust is well-founded, for Smithtown's volunteer firefighters are devoted to their duties, courageously shielding their family, friends and neighbors from all dangers. Compensated only by the satisfaction that their efforts save lives and protect property, these volunteers have answered every alarm for 90 years. I am proud and honored to count these brave firefighters and emergency services personnel among my friends and neighbors.